

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bill Miskell
Public Information Officer
785.296.3348
BMiskell@jja.ks.gov (E-mail)

JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AT BELOIT JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Juvenile Justice Authority Commissioner J. Russell Jennings today announced that work is underway to transfer the youth residents from the Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility (BJCF) to the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC), 1430 N.W. 25th Street, Topeka, no later than August 28, 2009.

“As a part of the State’s effort to reduce Fiscal Year 2010 budgets we will be suspending operations at Beloit,” Commissioner Jennings said. “We announced on June 16 that we would be implementing more than \$660,000 in budget reductions at Beloit and that additional reductions may be necessary. Select senior administrative staff have already developed a plan that is being used to ensure as smooth a transition as possible from Beloit to Topeka.”

Two of the housing units, which had previously been utilized on the west campus of the Topeka facility, are being reopened and refurbished as necessary to accommodate the approximately 22 young women who will be transferred from Beloit. A secure barrier fence will be installed between the young men on the east campus and the young women on the west campus. Dedicated direct supervision staff will be assigned to the girls operation while the two operations will share administrative, food, program, health, education and maintenance services. Although KJCC serves as the maximum security facility for male offenders, the girls will reside in separate facilities completely segregated from the males through independent residential buildings, classrooms, dining and visitation facilities.

The current FY 2010 budget for BJCF is \$3,111,534. Suspending operations at BJCF is projected to reduce that budget by \$1,466,131. \$719,360 will be transferred for the increased operations at KJCC. The remainder will be spent on operating expenditures for July and August and minimal maintenance and operating costs for the remainder of the fiscal year. A total of 47 staff at Beloit will be impacted by the transition. Approximately 20 direct supervision and supervisory staff will be added at Topeka to accommodate the female population.

“This decision allows us to continue our commitment to public safety with a limited impact on the remainder of the juvenile justice system while improving the programs and services to the young women in the most cost effective manner possible,” Commissioner Jennings said.